

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add before paragraph [0001] the following new sub-headings and paragraph:

-- PRIORITY CLAIM

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/DE2003/002824, filed on 23 August 2003. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) and 35 U.S.C. §365(b) is claimed from German Application No. 102 40 380.5, filed 31 August 2002 and German Application No. 103 31 602.7, filed 12 July 2003.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. **Field of the Invention** --

Please add before paragraph [0002] the following new sub-heading:

-- **2. Description of the Related Art** --

Please add before paragraph [0005] the following new sub-heading:

-- **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION** --

Please delete paragraph [0012] in entirety.

Please add before paragraph [0013] the following new sub-heading:

-- **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS** --

Please delete the sub-heading before paragraph [0018] and add the following new sub-heading:

-- **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS** --

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Figure 1 shows a schematic longitudinal section through a submersible motor-driven pump 1 in its working or operating position. A housing 3 is connected with an intake pipe 5 at one of its end faces (left side in Figure 1). The intake pipe 5 is part of an intake housing 7, on which a pump connection 9 and a discharge connection 11 are also formed. An impeller 13, which is mounted on a shaft, especially a ceramic shaft 15, is installed in working connection with the intake pipe 5 and the pump connection 9 in the intake housing 7. The ceramic shaft 15 has a shaft axis X, which, in the illustrated operating position, extends in an essentially horizontal direction into a can 17, which is installed in the housing 3. The ceramic shaft 15 is supported at the junction between the intake housing 7 and the can 17 in a ceramic bearing 19, which in turn is supported in an elastic bushing 20. A water displacer 23, which fills a structural free space, is formed concentrically on the ceramic shaft 15 between the ceramic bearing 19 and a rotor 21 located on the ceramic shaft ~~[25]~~ 15 in the can 17. The water displacer 23 preferably extends the same radial distance from the shaft axis X as the rotor 21, so that a more or less uniform air gap ~~[25]~~ 24 is formed between the inner wall of the can 17 and the rotor 21 and water displacer 23. The air gap ~~[25]~~ 24 can have a width of, for example, 0.2 mm.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] Each of the anti-freeze features of the submersible motor-driven pump, namely, the elastic bushing ~~[19]~~ 20, water displacer 23, elastic diaphragm 25, and elastic impeller mounting 27, by itself improves the freezing protection of the pump. The freezing protection is further ~~[optimized]~~ enhanced by the combination of the specified individual anti-freeze features. Therefore, in other embodiments, it is possible to use only some of the aforementioned anti-freeze features or any desired combinations of these features in a submersible motor-driven pump 1.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] In the second embodiment in Figure 4, an annular space 190 is arranged in front of the intake housing 70 in the direction of the intake pipe 150. In the second embodiment with the annular space 190, the intake pipe ~~[150]~~ 50 is screwed onto the intake housing 70. Other types of joints are also conceivable. A water displacer 210 is installed in the annular space 190. It consists, for example, of a closed-cell foamed plastic or a similar material that is well known from the state of the art. An air-filled membrane, similar to an expansion vessel in a heating system, is also conceivable, for example.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] A third embodiment of a submersible pump 10 is shown schematically in Figure 5. The submersible pump ~~[1]~~ 10 is identical to the submersible pump 10 of the second embodiment, except for the anti-freeze device, so that another general description is unnecessary. ~~[Corresponding parts are labeled with reference numbers that correspond to the reference numbers of the first and second embodiment.]~~ In this third embodiment, the anti-freeze device also includes an annular space 1900. However, it is arranged between the intake housing 70 and the can 170. The water displacer 210 is located in the annular space 1900 and can consist of the same materials as in the second embodiment. The annular space 1900 is connected by channels or slots 2300 with the interior of the can 170, on the one hand, and with the interior of the intake housing 70, on the other hand. The slots 2300 are also arranged here on the inside bordering on the periphery of the intake housing 70 and the can 170. In this way, the water/ice pressure can escape both from the can 170 and from the intake housing, and the submersible pump can freeze in various spatial positions without sustaining any freezing damage.

Please insert at page 6, after the heading, the following new sub-heading:

-- What is claimed is: --